

Miss Bedford 3rd mo 5th 1847

Yours precious letter, came to me last evening just as I was going on to the platform to speak. It is a real comfort to me, to hear how heroic you are. I know that you are so, & you would not act worthy of yourself to be childish. So far from being less receivable in the work of Association. I am more so than ever before and I derive that augmentation of strength from you. My mind is at ease, to give wholly to my business. New energies impel me, & new motives urge me to action. You asked me not long since whether, it seemed any different to go out as a husband, from going out as a single man. Yet there is all the difference which I expected. There would be more, if that difference is all on the right side. The purpose of all union is to strengthen the members, to greater purposes and nobler efforts. It gives ambition the warmth, the gentleness & refinements of love. It universalizes love and impels it beyond self. Man is an ambitious, selfish being in himself. He goes even abroad after new conquests & new fields of honor, and under the dominion of this passion, becomes selfish & tyrannical & heartless. Love overcomes him, generous, turns ambition to noble ends & inspires a noble chivalry. Woman is a being of love. Its tendency in her nature, is to centralize all goodness & beauty, & to enshrine the object of her devotion in her own bosom. Her feeling is, let us live in the bower of sweeted love - withdraw from the world into our own heaven. Ambition ~~extends~~

Wedded with love extends ^{its} sphere of ~~the better~~. This is the mystery of true marriage if there be any mystery about it. I wish you could spend a day or two here with me. I want you to see some of the folks I work they should see you. Tell them I am proud of my wife, & am not ashamed to boast of her superiority over all the women I ever saw. This is rather joking. I meant to say, that I keep thinking so within myself.

Last Monday Mr Allen & myself went to visit the Almshouse in this Town. It is a horrid sight, to behold men & women under the pretence of charity shut up in such a place - deprived of all social advantages, & compelled to work - receiving nothing but a miserable support for it. of if sick & not able to labor, crowded into apartments where there can be neither comfort, nor sympathy. There were some of the most miserable & degraded beings imaginable inmates of this asylum (?) Men and women, who had worn themselves out in the service of the rich who had been deprived of their industry & virtue were here sent to linger out the remainder of their lives in slavery. They are deprived of all true social existence. The men and women are never allowed each other's society - not so much as to eat together, because they have become so degraded & brutal that such an indulgence would be abused. And yet this is the best poor house that I ever saw. It is built on a spacious plan - the rooms are large and rather nice - the furniture simple, but what there is of it, comfortable. The house is warmed with

steamer throughout - Their founder establishment is the
best I ever saw - It is worth visiting as a sort of hint to what
may be done in a combined society. I saw poor sailors
who had just returned from long whaling voyages sick
to a state of comfort, while the cargoes of oil which
their ships had brought in were fastened to the
browns of the steamer. I could not but feel degraded, almost
as low as the poor creatures around me. I would sooner
a friend of mine should die than go into even the New
Bedford almshouse. - Wednesday night was fearfully
tempestuous and we had but a small audience. Mr. A
occupied the evening in a criticism upon the present
form of society. Last evening I spoke about 1 1/4 hours
the positive side. I made a good speech even if I
say it. It told upon the audience. The audience was
not large but it was a good one - I cannot tell what
will be the issue yet. Perhaps the immediate re-
sults will not be so great as we thought appear-
ances at first warrant us to hope for. It is thought
that there will be a full audience to-night. Bristow will be
here to speak. You intend me to come home on Monday. I
should like to do so, you know dearest, if all appears right.
But you must not expect me, for I think I shall have
to go to Fall River. The Union will hardly like to al-
low my travelling expenses so many times over. I
think I shall be home often visiting Fall River. Allen
wants me to go to Providence before returning, but
that I cannot think of doing. I shall need a clean ward-
robe by then

But the conducting of a paper would suit me better than anything else which now offers. But that laid on the table until I can see the friends at home & the Executive Board. I am not enthusiastic as you might possibly suppose I should be. I am rather in doubt about because I have no idea our friends will spare me from the field. Love to all dearest
Thine own loving John

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Mr. George Wright
Book Room
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New York

From my dearest I am not willing to hear you hint that yr
brother may possibly give out. It will not. You dont
know how much good the kind manner, in which
spoke of the Editorial business, did me - I dont prefer
that position to all others. I wish to be in the place
where I can do most for the cause.